

REMARKS

Claims 3-25 are currently pending in the present application. By this Response, claims 1 and 2 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, claims 3, 4 and 12-16 have been amended and claims 17-25 are new. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,554,667 to Smith et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,742,608 to Randriananliminana et al. ("Rand"). The rejected claims have been canceled from the present application. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

Claims 3-16 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The objected to claims have been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the instant objection.

CONCLUSION

The claims are allowable over the prior art for at least the reasons set forth above. A Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge all required fees, including all required claim fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and/or all required extension of time fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account 11-0600.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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